GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1175
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
SAFETY OF INDIANS IN AFGHANISTAN
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep;Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime has allegedly renewed their warning to Indians to wind up their projects there;

(b) If so, the facts and the details thereof along with the reaction of the Union Government in this regard;

(c) Whether the Union Government has issued any advise for the Indians going to Afghanistan;

(d) If so, the details in this regard;

(e) Whether the Indians working in Afghanistan are safe; and

(f) If not, the steps taken by the Government for the safety of Indians?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) &(b) Yes. Several warnings and threats to Indians working in Afghanistan have been received periodically from the ousted Taliban regime.

The Government of India had strongly condemned the killing of Indians in Afghanistan and held the Taliban and its sponsors responsible for it. Government regards the Taliban as a terrorist organization and calls upon the international community to recognize its true colours and join hands to defeat this scourge to humanity. Government has also reiterated its commitment for continued assistance to Afghanistan.

(c) &(d) Yes.The Government of India is issuing advisories for the Indians going to Afghanistan periodically through its Embassy/Consulates in Afghanistan and also through Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. All Indians working in Afghanistan are urged to register themselves with the Embassy of India, Kabul. In addition, Indians are also instructed to take adequate security measures and inform their employers and Embassy in case of any need.

(e) & (f) Government of India is taking all possible measures to ensure the safety of Indian workers in Afghanistan. The Indian Missions in Afghanistan are issuing regular security advisories and updates for the benefit of Indians working in Afghanistan. Government of India is in constant touch with the Government of Afghanistan, at various levels, and has taken up the issue of security of Indian nationals working in Afghanistan.